



STATE SENATOR  
**BRUCE PATTERSON**  
IN THE LOOP ★

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06/02/06

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**Hurricane relief workers honored in Senate ceremony**

On Thursday, June 1, during the Senate session, Senator Patterson honored two from District Seven who were part of the Michigan-1 DMAT, the Disaster Medical Assistance Team. Ann Marie Taylor, Registered Pharmacist from Plymouth, and Captain Russell A. McNamee from Flat Rock, who serves with the Dearborn Heights Fire Department, were the two from the District. Each received a copy of a special Senate Resolution for their work in two separate deployments last year. The first was to Gulfport, Mississippi; the second was to New Orleans and Baton Rouge.



Sen. Patterson with Ann Marie Taylor, R.Ph., who served with the Michigan-1 DMAT in the hurricane-stricken Gulf Coast last year. He presented her with a copy of the Senate Resolution honoring the Team. Capt. McNamee was attending the funeral mass for Officer Jason Makowski at the time of the Senate session.

Senator Patterson presented copies of a Senatorial Resolution commending them for their virtually instantaneous response to the disaster, and for the valuable work they accomplished in the ravaged areas. "Our country owes you a deep debt of gratitude and

appreciation. You are models of selflessness to us all. Thank you! And thank you to your families, who supported you in this vital service, during your absences,” said Patterson.

Altogether, 38 DMAT members, representing the larger team from all across Michigan, were honored in the Senate ceremony.

### **Does your Family have updated Emergency Plans?**

From the US Department of Justice comes this notice:

### **CREATING A FAMILY PLAN**

An emergency can occur without warning, leaving little or no time for you and your family to plan what to do next. It is necessary for you to learn about the things you can do to be prepared before an emergency occurs. Emergencies may strike when your family members are away from home, so find out about plans at your workplace, school, or anywhere else you and your family spends time. After creating a household emergency plan you should take the time to review it with your family every six months. Steps to take in creating a household emergency plan include:

1. Meet with household members and discuss the dangers of possible emergency events, including fire, severe weather, hazardous spills, and terrorism.
2. Discuss how you and your family will respond to each possible emergency.
3. Discuss what to do in case of power outages or personal injuries.
4. Draw a floor plan of your home. Mark two escape routes from each room.
5. Post emergency contact numbers near all telephones and pre-program emergency numbers into phones with auto-dial capabilities.
6. Be sure that every member of your family knows the phone number of an out-of-town contact and has coins or a prepaid phone card to call the emergency contact.
7. Teach children how and when to dial 9-1-1 to get emergency assistance.
8. Teach children how to make long-distance telephone calls.
9. Pick a friend or relative that all family members will call if separated (it is often easier to call out-of-state during an emergency than within the affected area).
10. Instruct household members to turn on the radio and tune to the emergency alert radio stations. (Check local listings.)
11. Pick two meeting places:
  - A place near your home.
  - A place outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home after an emergency.
12. Take a Basic First Aid and CPR Class. Contact American Red Cross for more information.
13. Keep family records in a water- and fireproof safe. Inexpensive models can be purchased at most hardware stores.

#### **Things to think about...**

If any members of your household have disabilities or are elderly, find out what services may be available to aid in their care or evacuation in the event of an emergency.

Emergency preparedness officials say that each home should be prepared with its own supplies for a three-day period, at least. In case of a major disaster, it could take that long for civil services to organize assistance to the wider population. Government cannot do everything; don't expect it. Plan on a measure of self-reliance for your household.

### **Alternative Fuels bills move forward**

The Senate's Technology & Energy Committee recommended passage of a set of House-originated bills dealing with the development and use of alternative fuels and fuel infrastructures to make them more available to the public. This will support the efforts of the Big Three to promote more fuel-efficient vehicles, and thus retain jobs in manufacturing here, while creating new jobs in the fuel industries.

The bills were on the Agenda last Wednesday; Chairman Patterson presided over the meeting. These bills closely parallel a series from the Senate; final passage is expected soon.

### **Bi-partisan SBT-replacement Committee formed**

More than the requisite number of petitioners apparently signed on a measure to terminate Michigan's unique Single Business Tax [SBT] by the end of 2007. This has quickened the pace of efforts in Lansing to find a more equitable funding source for the state. A bi-partisan, bi-cameral committee, chaired by Sen. Nancy Cassis of Novi and Rep. Fulton J. Sheen of Plainwell, has been formed. There are six members. A close examination of other states in closest competition with Michigan will be made, in order to find the best practices to foster, not interfere with, businesses and jobs.

The Michigan SBT, a kind of 'value-added tax' as found in Britain, was imposed without much consideration in the early '70s, when the state faced another financial 'dry spell'. It was quickly recognized as onerous, taxing the creation of new jobs, and in the 1990s, it was put on a phasing-out schedule. This was interrupted briefly, but the SBT was due to end with 2009.

Michigan's need to remove impediments to job-creation has motivated efforts to repeal the SBT. Small businesses are particularly hurt by the current tax. It is expected that lifting this burden can revitalize that part of the state economy, and stimulate the whole. President Kennedy maintained that lowering taxes on businesses and individuals would result in a stimulus to the economy such that government income would actually rise, since a greater number of earners would be on the rolls. Economics is not a 'zero-sum' system. An 'exact replacement' for the current SBT income may not at all be needed.

### **Methamphetamine bills pass Senate**

"Meth" has been a nightmare for years. For every pound of the illegal drug "cooked," there are about six pounds of toxic waste, -- let alone the damage done to users. The production is often volatile, leading to catastrophic explosions and injury. Contaminated sites will now be handled by the Dept. of Environmental Quality under a bill passed by the Senate, in a package of legislation. Sale of critical ingredients over the internet, or by mail or telephone, will become illegal. Such sales will be felonies. This is an effort to choke off the sources of the illegal drug.

### **Hepatitis-C education bills pass Health Policy Committee**

The virulent virus causing Hepatitis C, a liver disease without known cure, is spreading. Health workers, public safety officers, and others are put at risk in the line of duty. So the legislation directs the preparation of education materials in electronic and printed formats for the use of those who serve the community health and safety. These will cover diagnosis, control and prevention of the disease. The Department of Community Health has the Michigan Health Initiative Fund, which was established to provide such educational materials.

Sen. Patterson is a member of the Health Policy Committee.

### **Grosse Ile Island Fest this weekend**

Sen. Patterson looks forward to seeing many of *In the Loop*'s readers on Saturday, June 3, and to joining in the parade and festivities on the Ile.

### **Flag-raising in Canton**

Sen. Patterson and Rep. Phil LaJoy together will raise the state flag of Michigan at the Grand Opening of the new IKEA store in Canton on Wednesday, June 7. The ceremony will begin at 8:30am. "This is 400 new jobs for the district," said Patterson, "and there will be a ripple effect, both from these new salaries, and from the many patrons who will come to the district to shop here. They will find much in the township to interest them. Nearby communities will also benefit from the commerce."

### **Office Hours schedule for June 2006**

Sue Trussell, Sen. Patterson's District Representative, will hold office hours at different locations each week. Office Hours will be on Mondays, from 11 am to 1 pm.

June 5<sup>th</sup> -- Sumpter Twp Hall, 23480 Sumpter Rd., Sumpter Township

June 12<sup>th</sup> -- Woodhaven City Hall, 21869 West Road, Woodhaven

June 19<sup>th</sup> -- Flat Rock Library, 25200 Gibraltar Road, Flat Rock

June 26<sup>th</sup> -- Huron Twp. Hall, 22950 Huron River Drive, Huron Twp

– This will be in their new building.

### **Contact Information**

Thank you for your interest in our current state issues. If you would like to receive future updates via e-mail, please contact my office at < [senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov) >.

You can also visit me in my Lansing office at 505 Farnum Building, just across S. Capitol Avenue from the state Capitol; or you can send me mail at P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909. Telephone (517) 373-7350 or (866) 262-7307; fax (517) 373-9228. I want to hear from you.

See the *Legislative Questionnaire* on the Website, too! Your responses are welcomed!